

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

May 5, 2006

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Assistant U.S. Attorney

Madison, Wisconsin -- Stephen P. Sinnott, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Brandon Hart, DOB 10/25/82, of Beloit, Wisconsin, was sentenced today by U.S. District Judge John C. Shabaz to 42 months in prison for unlawfully possessing a firearm as a convicted felon. Hart pleaded guilty to this charge on February 22, 2006.

On September 6, 2005, officers with the Beloit Police Department responded to a shots-fired call and subsequently identified Hart as a shooting victim. Shortly thereafter, a groundskeeper at a local church located a sawed-off shotgun on church property. When Hart was interviewed by Beloit detectives, he admitted he had a sawed-off shotgun to protect himself and he told the officers where he had dropped the gun. Hart's confession was corroborated by the information from the church groundskeeper. Hart was on probation for a felony narcotics conviction in September 2005 and his probation has been revoked.

Hart is scheduled to be sentenced on the revocation on May 8, 2006, and his federal sentence will be served consecutive to that sentence.

The charge against Hart was the result of an investigation conducted by the Beloit Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Prosecution of the case has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Rita M. Rumbelow.

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